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303-573-1865

Executive Registry

77-5989

WH/10/7/77

September 28, 1977

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The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sir:

We certainly commend your administration for its activities promoting greater development of American minority-owned businesses. Your September 12 statement released by Mr. Powell's office is most encouraging.

However, there exists a rather glaring contradiction in the form of the Central Intelligence Agency which gives one pause in terms of the sincerity of various Administration statements advocating universal equality. From an internal perspective it appears that no Black person has a substantive role within the Agency. (I have enclosed a list prepared by an associate of mine, John Lewis, which, you will note, does not contain a reference to the CIA.)

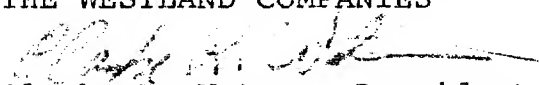
Externally, the Agency appears not to have a policy aimed at encouraging minority participation in its affairs. Its absence from the Inter-agency Council for Minority Business Enterprise (see enclosed) is evidence of this.

We contend that to permit any agency of government, for whatever reason to not have an affirmative action policy sets a dangerous precedent for discrimination in other segments of the public and private sectors. No argument, "security" or otherwise, should be advanced in the cause of discrimination.

Therefore, we, as a 100% minority-owned firm, request that immediate and definitive steps be undertaken by your office to eliminate this seeming immunity from fair employment and business practices.

We thank you in advance for your personal attention in this matter.

Sincerely,
THE WESTLAND COMPANIES


Clarke R. Watson, President

(EXECUTIVE REGISTRY FILE Public Affairs)

cc: Parren Mitchell
Dr. Randolph T. Blackwell

EMBARGOED UNTIL AFTER
THE BRIEFING

SEPTEMBER 12, 1977

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

FACT SHEET

THE INTERAGENCY COUNCIL FOR MINORITY BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

The Interagency Council for Minority Business Enterprise promotes minority business assistance from within the Government. It assures that minority businesses have ready access to all Federal opportunities and programs having the potential to assist them in their endeavors.

The Council is chaired by Dr. Sidney Harman, Under Secretary of Commerce, and its membership includes Under Secretaries, Deputy Secretaries and Deputy Administrators of major agencies and departments having programs to promote and strengthen minority businesses. The Council functions through an Executive Committee and various program-oriented committees.

Generally, Council members chair the committees whose Executive Directors are provided by the Commerce Department's Office of Minority Business Enterprise (OMBE). Dr. Randolph T. Blackwell, Director of OMBE, supports the Council with staff assistance, with additional support coming from member departments and agencies. Under the provisions of Executive Order 11625, OMBE is the lead agency in the Federal government for the minority enterprise program.

The program-oriented areas of concentration include: Business Management Development (Education and Training); Indian Business Development; Minority Business Opportunities Committee (MBOC) Coordination; Procurement; and Special Programs. The MBOC Coordination Committee merits special emphasis in that it represents the link between the Council and 37 Minority Business Opportunity Committees. These 37 MBOCs are the local Federal counterparts of the Council with the responsibility to ensure that department and agency commitments of programs and resources to minority business within the Council come to fruition in the 37 jurisdictions.

Primarily the Council seeks to assist minority businesses by: identifying appropriate resources within each agency, developing strategies to provide access to the resources, assuring agency support of the strategies, and implementing a comprehensive and coordinated program to assist the minority businesses.

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

Routing Slip

TO:

		ACTION	INFO	DATE	INITIAL
1	DCI		✓		
2	DDCI		✓		
3	D/DCI/IC				
4	DDS&T				
5	DDI				
6	DDA	✓			
7	DDO				
8	D/DCI/NI				
9	GC				
10	LC				
11	IG				
12	Compt				
13	D/Pers				
14	D/S				
15	DTR				
16	A/DCI/PA				
17	AO/DCI				
18	C/IPS				
19	DCI/SS				
20	D/EEO		✓		
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SUSPENSE _____ Date _____

Remarks:

6. In coordination with 20,
please prepare a response
to this White House referral
for A/DCI signature

Executive Secretary
10/7/77
Date

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